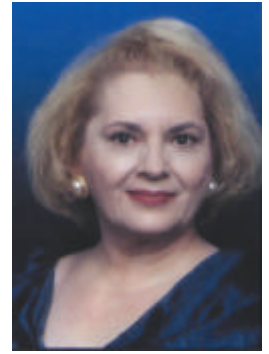


SENATOR ROSE ANN ANTICH-CARR



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The national recession has taken a heavy toll on Indiana and most other states. The downturn has cut into state sales, income, and other tax revenues. At the same time, the federal government has either frozen or reduced funding which it provides to states for a number of programs and initiatives. As a result, most states, including Indiana, are experiencing a budget squeeze.

However, Indiana continues to move forward and make significant strides. During the swearing in ceremony of Indiana's first female Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Davis noted a few of the state's recent accomplishments:

- *Indiana continues to have the lowest state and local taxes as a percent of personal income of any Midwestern state.*
- *In 2002, Indiana was the only state in the nation to conduct a comprehensive overhaul of its tax system. In the process, it eliminated the corporate gross income tax, reduced property taxes for most Hoosiers, and began phasing out the inventory tax.*
- *Indiana's K-12 academic standards are among the highest in the nation.*
- *In 2000, 60% of Indiana's high school graduates went on to college, ranking the state 17th in the nation, up from 37% in 1986 when the state ranked 40th.*
- *The Community College of Indiana program has added 21,000 students since it started in 2000 – an increase of 50%.*
- *With the establishment of a new research center at Purdue, Indiana will remain at the forefront in the area of agricultural research and development.*
- *Indiana is the only state in the nation to have a network operation center for Internet 2, the next generation Internet.*
- *With the completion of Prophetstown State Park, all Hoosiers will be within an hour's drive of a state park or state recreation area.*

While we as a state face many challenges, we must not lose sight of the progress we've made. These advances would not have occurred without bipartisan cooperation among members of the General Assembly and the consensus-building efforts of the late Governor Frank O'Bannon and his successor Governor Joe Kernan. In the months ahead, I look forward to working with my colleagues to help foster a stronger state in which to live and raise our families.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year,

2004 legislative session underway

Additional property tax relief sought

On November 18, lawmakers dove into what normally is a one day session of organization, but instead began an extended session expected to last several weeks. In an effort to provide additional property tax relief for those hit hardest by reassessment, the General Assembly immediately began consideration of two initiatives, Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1001.

As you may recall, in 1998 the Indiana Supreme Court ordered that changes be made to the statewide property assessment system, calling it then unconstitutional. As calculations began taking place under the new system, many property tax bills were increasing enormously and disproportionately. Heeding the call from many Hoosiers to take action, lawmakers in 2002 enacted a major tax restructuring package to offset a shift in the tax burden that would have resulted in an estimated statewide average property tax increase of 33% for residential property owners. The bi-partisan plan reduced property taxes by more than \$1 billion. I would

also like to note that the state only receives less than one-half of one percent of the property tax homeowners pay.

Local government taxes impact state budget

County officials who have completed reassessment inform us that more than half of the relief provided by the General Assembly was diffused by local property tax increases imposed by city, county, township and other local officials who passed along property tax increases through levies.

Additional property tax relief is now being sought by state lawmakers. Legislation not only includes provisions to assist taxpayers, but also measures to curb local government spending and place controls on local officials' abilities to initiate tax increases that negatively impact the state budget.

"More than half of the relief provided by the General Assembly was diffused by property tax increases imposed on the local level."

Economic development efforts targeted

During the past several years, the General Assembly has made tremendous strides to provide a positive atmosphere for economic development in Indiana. In 2002, legislators worked together to enact the most comprehensive tax restructuring package in state history that, among other things, significantly overhauled corporate taxation in Indiana.



Attracting New Business

Funded by a legislative appropriation from the 2003 General Assembly, Governor Kernan launched an ambitious campaign to promote Indiana as the place to do business thanks to the recently restructured tax system. In October, the Governor and the Indiana Department of Commerce announced a bold initiative to market Indiana's business-friendly climate to regional and national audiences through statewide daily newspapers and business journals, as well as regional editions of national business publications distributed in major Midwestern cities.

The campaign logo features the word "GO" placed on what normally is considered a traffic stop sign, and is designed to indicate that Indiana is moving forward in the face of a national recession.

Technology Partnerships

Legislators also approved legislation that created or revised economic development tools to encourage new jobs for working Hoosiers. One of the new tools being implemented is the "Certified Technology Park Program." This program creates partnerships between universities and local governments to encourage the location of high-tech businesses within areas identified by local redevelopment commissions and approved as Technology Parks. Each park must have a firm commitment from at least one business primarily engaged in high-tech activity that will locate within the park and create a significant number of jobs.

These programs are needed to promote our commitment to education, retain Hoosier graduates and boost the high-tech sector which ultimately creates jobs.

Technology Park Locations in Indiana:
Anderson, Fort Wayne, Hammond,
West Lafayette, and Shelbyville.



2004 Legislative Questionnaire

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.state.in.us/S4

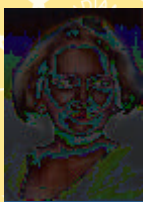
Feel free to have another family member, as well as yourself, respond to questions.

Respondent #1	Respondent #2
1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Rail <input type="checkbox"/>	Rail <input type="checkbox"/>
Bus <input type="checkbox"/>	Bus <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Support <input type="checkbox"/>	Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose <input type="checkbox"/>

1. Do you support using part of the state-allocated tobacco settlement funds to supplement the state budget shortfall while using the balance for its intended purpose of funding tobacco prevention and control programs?
2. Do you support a **Lake County** 1-percent food and beverage tax to fund the Regional Transportation Authority and extend commuter rail transportation in Northwest Indiana?
 - a. For rail transportation
 - b. For bus transportation
 - c. Oppose this tax increase
3. Do you support legislative action to place stricter controls on local governments' ability to raise property tax levies?
4. Do you support non-elected board members, e.g. Library Boards, having the ability to levy taxes (this could mean an increase in your property taxes)?
5. To replace other taxes, such as property taxes, do you support a proposal to expand the state sales tax to not only cover products, but also cover most non-medical services, e.g. car repairs, travel planning, dry cleaning?
6. Do you support efforts to raise the age at which a child may drop out of high school from age 16 to age 18?
7. Motor vehicles with truck plates, including some sport utility vehicles (SUVs), are currently not included under the law that requires the use of seat belts. Do you support legislation which would require the use of seat-belts by front seat passengers in all motor vehicles?
8. Indiana has established a voluntary self-exclusion list that allows gamblers to bar themselves from Indiana casinos. Do you support legislation to establish a state-enforced maximum loss limit for customers at casinos?

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



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Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please send me issue updates at my home address printed below.
- ☐ Please send me issue updates via email. My email address is: (print clearly)

- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print
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Antich-Carr '04 Legislative Survey Response